

What to do if you find plumeless thistle...

- This is a priority noxious weed! Please report sites to the Oregon Department of Agriculture immediately!
- Document sites using landmarks or GPS coordinates for further investigation.
- Prevent the spread by thoroughly cleaning boots, pets, livestock, or equipment of mud and debris that may carry seeds.
- Keep vehicles and grazing animals out of infested areas.

Don't let plumeless
thistle get a
foothold in Oregon!

**Report suspect
sites to**

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Invasive Noxious Weed
Control Program
503-986-4621 or call

1-866-INVADER



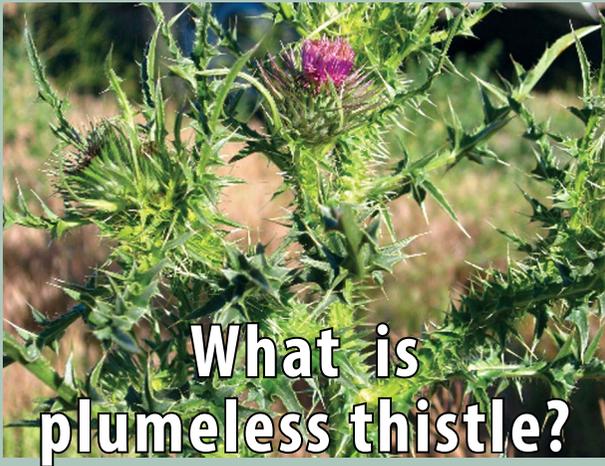
Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Plant Protection & Conservation Programs
Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem OR 97301-2532

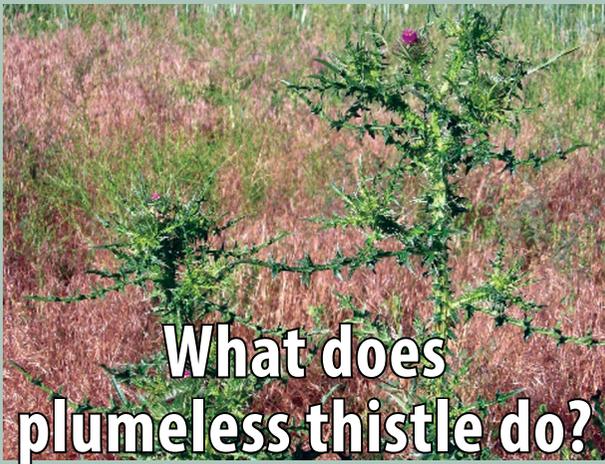
Plumeless thistle

Carduus acanthoides
**INVASIVE THISTLE
ALERT!**

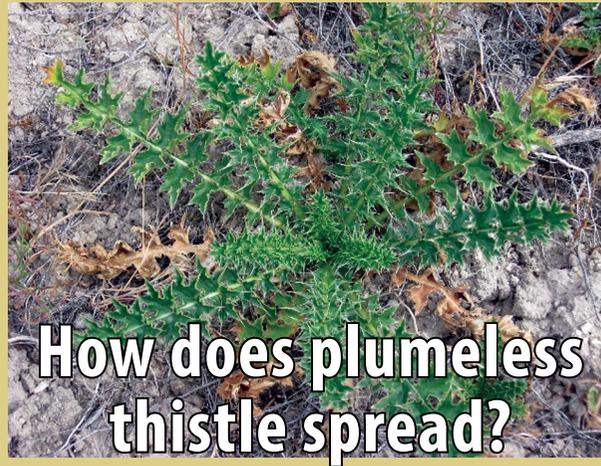




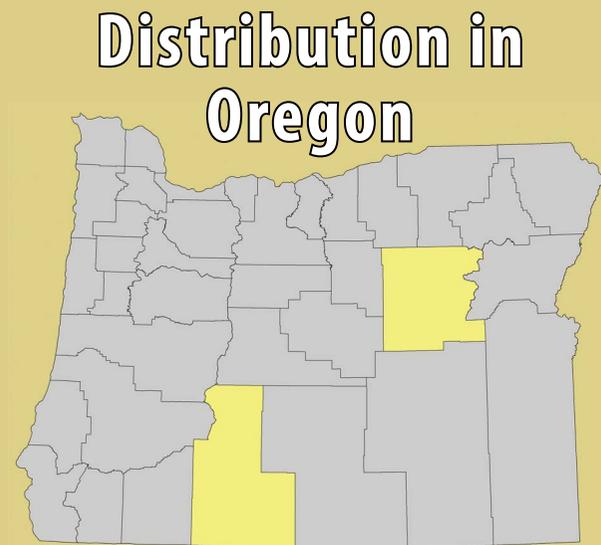
Plumeless thistle was introduced to the US from Eurasia in the 1900s. It has since spread throughout the US and Canada. Only three sites occur in Oregon, the largest in Grant County and two small infestations in Klamath County. Though distribution in Oregon is very limited, plumeless thistle has potential to become widespread.



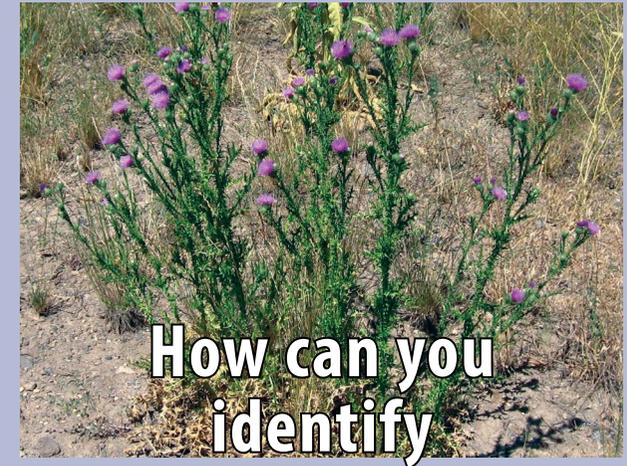
Once established, plumeless thistle degrades the quality of range and pasture land. Plumeless thistle crowds out desirable forage and excludes livestock and wildlife from foraging where infestations become thick. Forage, hay, and seed crops can be contaminated, reducing their value. Abundant populations alter native communities by pushing out native plants.



Reproduction is entirely from seed. Seeds are plumeless and disperse a short distance from mature plants. More distant spread occurs by bird, small mammal, livestock, and human activity. Thistles prefer disturbed sites and initial introduction often occurs in range and pasture land and along roadsides and rail lines.



- Widely distributed
- Limited distribution
- Not known to occur



Plumeless thistle has a branching growth form with spiny wings on the stems that extend to the flowers. This weed grows over 4 feet tall. Rosettes form on a stout fleshy taproot. Leaves grow 4-8 inches long and have wavy margins with yellow spines along the edges. Flowers are rose to purple atop globe-shaped heads measuring 1-2 inches in diameter. Bracts of the flowerhead are tipped with yellow spines. Blooms May through July, with seeds developing by late summer.



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds
Photo credits: Bob Barret, ODA and
Todd Pfeiffer, Klamath County Weed District.
Contact 1-866-invader for more information
5/2017